

Message Text

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BANGKOK PASS CODEL MANSFIELD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP BM (MANSFIELD)

SUBJ: CODEL MANSFIELD: RESUME OF VISIT TO BURMA

1. SENATOR AND MRS. MANSFIELD AND PARTY HAD WHAT WE BELIEVE TO HAVE BEEN A VERY FRUITFUL AND PRODUCTIVE VISIT TO BURMA AUGUST 7-11. CODEL ARRIVED ON SCHEDULE EVENING OF AUGUST 7 AND WAS GREETED AT AIRPORT BY CHIEF OF PROTOCOL U TOE LON AS WELL AS COUNTRY TEAM. TWO HOUR BRIEFING WAS HELD FOR PARTY, INCLUDING MRS. MANSFIELD, MORNING OF AUGUST 8 COVERING BURMA'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, THE INSURGENCY, THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM AND THE U.S. NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM. PARTY EVIDENCED INTEREST IN THE NARCOTICS PACKAGE AND IN OFFSHORE PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENTS; A SEPARATE MEMORANDUM ON THE LATTER SUBJECT WAS PROVIDED THE SENATOR.

2. EVENING OF AUGUST 8 CHARGE HOSTED DINNER FOR CODEL AND ATTRACTED ONE OF THE HIGHEST RANKING LISTS OF BURMESE GUESTS WE HAVE HAD IN RECENT MEMORY INCLUDING DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER-FINANCE MINISTER U LWIN, MINISTER OF DEFENSE (AND ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER) GENERAL TIN OO AND DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER U WIN. TOASTS WERE EXCHANGED TO PRESIDENT NE WIN AND PRESIDENT FORD.

3. AUGUST 9 PARTY WAS FLOWN TO PAGAN AND MANDALAY ABOARD CHARTERED UBA F-27. TRIP WAS MADE AT SENATOR'S REQUEST FOLLOWING SUGGESTION
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BY PRESIDENT NE WIN DURING THE SENATOR'S LAST VISIT TO BURMA IN

AUGUST 1969 THAT HE VISIT UP-COUNTRY. PARTY TOURED EARTHQUAKE DAMAGED TEMPLES IN COMPANY OF ONE OF BURMA'S LEADING ARCHEOLOGISTS WHOSE SERVICES PROVIDED BY FOREIGN MINISTRY. CODEL LUNCHED AT AMCONSULATE MANDALAY AND WAS ENTERTAINED BY BURMESE MUSIC AND DANCES. AFTER TWO HOUR TOUR OF MANDALAY, PARTY RETURNED TO RANGOON EARLY EVENING.

4. ON AUGUST 10 PARTY RESTED OR SHOPPED DURING DAY. IN EVENING, SENATOR AND MRS. MANSFIELD, ACCOMPANIED BY MR. VALEO, ATTENDED PRIVATE DINNER WITH PRESIDENT NE WIN AT LATTER'S INVITATION: THERE WAS SOME CONFUSION ABOUT THE GUEST LIST WHICH THE MFA ORIGINALLY INFORMED US COULD INCLUDE ANY NUMBER OF GUESTS BUT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY REDUCED BY GOVERNMENT HOUSE TO THREE GUESTS. IN ADDITION TO THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. NE WIN, GENERAL AND MRS. SAN YU AND U THA TUN, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT ALSO ATTENDED. DINNER AND INFORMAL CONVERSATION LASTED FOUR HOURS; ATMOSPHERE MOST CORDIAL AS PRESIDENT REVIEWED RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN BURMA AND ASIA AND REMINISCED ABOUT SENATOR'S PREVIOUS VISITS (SEPTEL ON CONVERSATION FOLLOWS). CODEL DEPARTED FOR BANGKOK AUGUST 11 ON SCHEDULE.

5. COMMENT: WE CONSIDER THE VISIT VERY MUCH OF A SUCCESS FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF ADVANCING U.S. INTERESTS AND TRUST THAT THE CODEL FOUND IT EQUALLY REWARDING. SENATOR AND MRS. MANSFIELD REPRESENTED IN A VERY PERSONAL WAY THE CONTINUED INTEREST OF THE U.S. IN BURMA WHICH WAS EVIDENTLY MUCH APPRECIATED BY PRESIDENT NE WPD. GUB ON THE OTHER HAND WENT OUT OF ITS WAY TO EXTEND ALL FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE POSSIBLE TO THE CODEL.
HOWARTH

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